(ix) The problems of fair price shops dealers were related to location of delivery centres, transportation of commodities fixation of margin money or commission, advance payment of cost of commodities and periodical delivery.

(x) No payment of wages to the households working under JRY/EAS was being made in kind through fair price shops in the selected States except Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. No linkage of RPDS was found with Nutrition Programme in any of the States.

(xi) There was a mixed reaction of the selected households about the functioning of the fair price shops. Over 61% of the respondents reported positive about the regularity in opening of fair price shops, whereas 30.28% reported negatively. Many of the respondents from the State of Bihar (75.29%), Karnataka (43.66%), Maharashtra (57.14%), Rajasthan (43.48%) and Tamil Nadu (100%) reported in negative about the opening of the fair price shops and scheduled working hours. However, to overcome the existing gaps in opening time working hours, regularity of distribution and communication to the consumers, effective steps have to be undertaken. There are some indications about the substandard quality, quantity as well as higher prices of the commodities at the fair price shops. A close supervision and monitoring is required for the purpose.

(xii) It was observed that commodities were generally distributed regularly but in some cases irregular distribution with long gap was reported.

(xiii) In case of wheat (60%) and kerosene (67%), the consumers felt the quantity distributed was adequate whereas in case of sugar (61%) and rice (55%), the quantity distributed was reported to be inadequate in many places. The quality of commodities distributed through RPDS was reported to be generally "average" for wheat (69.08%), rice (57%) and sugar (57%).

(xiv) Majority of respondents felt that the commodities *i.e.* wheat (80.40%), rice (77.21%), sugar (89%), and kerosene (92.13%) as affordable.

(xv) In some of the States, the beneficiaries have indicated their local needs and preferences for commodities which they would like to be distributed through RPDS. For example, in Rajasthan and Gujarat there are local demands for inclusion of maize, jowar and bajra, etc. in Kerala demand of rice was more in lieu of wheat. In West Bengal the distribution of local variety of rice was preferred. The study has indicated that there is a strong need to consider the local situation (socio-economic and caltural) regarding preference of commodities. Area specific approach need to get due weightage in the scheme for additional and alteration of items under distribution.

(xvi) According to the knowledgable persons the implementation of the RPDS was unsatisfactory due to irregular distribution of foodgrains, high transport cost and inadequate subsidy, non-lifting of commodities regularly and timely, underweighment of supply/distribution, replacement of good qualtiy commodities at stock points/delivery centres, non adhering of quality and procedure in distribution and non existence of Vigilance Committee.

Hike in prices of Pulses

1029. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising prices of pulses;

(b) if so, what, according to the analysis, if any, made by Government is the rise in the prices of pulses as compared to the prices at the end of 1995;

(c) what the reasons for the rise in the prices of pulses; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to bring down the prices of pulses at a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) The percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of pulses for the period 30.12.95 to 17.2.96 (being the latest) is as under:

	17.2.96*
	30.12.95
Pulses (Sub-group)	—2.2
Gram	—1.4
Arhar	—6.4
Moong	—0.8
Masur	—5.2
Urad	+2.6

*Latest availabie Wholesale Price Index Number

(c) The production of pulses in the country is nearely stagnant at around 14 million tonnes for the past few years. The estimated demand for pulses in the country is around 19 million tonnes. Thus, there is a gap of around 5 million tonnes.

(d) The farmers are being encouraged to increase the area under cultivation as well as yield of pulses through Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition, in order to augment the supply of pulses, their imports have been kept under OGL and the customs duty on imported pulses was reduced to 5% from 10%. Further, strict action against hoarders and balckmarketeers is being taken by the State/UT Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Complaints against export of substandard goods

1030. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints during 1995 and so far in 1996 against the exporters who compromise with the quality and who export substandard goods bringing a bad name for the cour.try;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints against the foreign firms found to be indulging in dumping of goods in the Indian markets;

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the names of such firms and the details in this regard; and

(d) the action Government have taken or propose to take in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Complaints against export of sub-standard goods are investigated and action taken against erring exporters under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, Export (Control) Order, 1988 framed under Import & Export - (Control) Act, 1947/Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act 1963, as amended in 1984, for imposing fiscal penalties, debarments and cancellation of Importer-Exporter Code Number, etc. The names of the firms against whom action has been taken is at Statement-I (*See* below).

Anti dumping investigations are carried out under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder. Anti dumping duty is imposed on the basis of such investigations. Cases in which anti dumping duty has been imposed is at Statement-II.